

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 23, 2009, including each of the 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b), 102(e) and 103(a) prior art rejections, have been carefully considered. The single independent claim in the application, Claim 1, has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 25, which effectively overcomes both of the §§ 102 rejections. For the reasons hereinafter set forth, the applicants respectfully submit that the § 103(a) rejections of remaining (and amended) Claims 1-22 and 26-30 should be withdrawn.

The invention of Claim 1 after the above amendments relates to a curable composition comprising: (A) a vinyl polymer (I) comprising, at the molecular terminus, at least one group represented by the general formula (1): $\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{R}^a)-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$ (1) wherein R^a represents a hydrogen atom or a monovalent organic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, (B) a polymerization initiator, and (C) a metallic soap, wherein the component (C) is magnesium stearate and/or zinc stearate. Examples 1-6 and Table 1 in the present specification show that use of magnesium stearate and/or zinc stearate gave much more excellent mold release properties than use of other metal salts of stearic acid.

On the other hand, Al-Akhdar et al. (US 6,777,459) relates to a composition which undergoes minimal yellowing upon curing comprising ethylenically unsaturated polymerizable compound, acylphosphine oxide photoinitiator, and lightfast organic pigments. This reference only describes that some compounds including copper stearate are added to enhance dark storage stability.

Thurber et al. (US 6,228,133) relates to a method of forming an abrasive article; and an abrasive article comprising a plurality of abrasive particles. This reference only describes use of a metal salt of a fatty acid which controls a curing process.

EP 1160266 A1 relates to a production method of a branched polymer which comprises polymerizing a macromonomer, said macromonomer being a vinyl polymer obtainable by radical polymerization and terminally having one polymerizable carbon-carbon double bond-containing group per molecule. As the Examiner recognizes, this reference does not mention adding a metallic soap.

The Lammering et al. publication only describes that metallic soaps are known as lubricants and release agents.

JP 2000-160026 relates to a resin composition comprising a thermosetting resin, a mineral filler and a metallic soap as a mold lubricant.

Thus, none of the above references disclose that much more excellent mold release properties can be obtained by using magnesium stearate and/or zinc stearate instead of using other metal salts of stearic acid. Accordingly, there is no suggestion in any combination of the above references that one skilled in the relevant art would have thought the above excellent effects of the present invention would be obtained by using magnesium stearate and/or zinc stearate.

As such, applicants submit that the present invention would not have been obvious based on any combination of the above references. Therefore, the rejections of Claims 1-22 and 26-30 should be withdrawn and the application allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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